



## **Rebuild Iowa Task Force Infrastructure and Transportation Meeting Notes**

Governor Chet Culver  
Lt. Governor Patty Judge, RIO Executive Director

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**October 7, 2008 – 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Iowa Department for the Blind  
524 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines**

### **Task Force Members:**

Mike King, Co-Chair, Iowa State Association of Counties, Union County Supervisor, Creston  
Mark Wandro, Co-Chair, Snyder and Associates, Ankeny  
Gary Anderson, Co-Chair, Iowa State Association of Counties, Sheriff, Appanoose County  
Charles Allen, Iowa Telecom, Newton  
Senator Joe Bolkcom, Iowa General Assembly, Iowa City  
Darren Bumgarner, Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission, Spencer Scott  
Byers, NAI Iowa Realty Commercial, Cedar Rapids  
Patti Cale-Finnegan, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines  
David Elgin, City of Cedar Rapids Public Works, Cedar Rapids  
James Houser, Linn County, Cedar Rapids  
James King, Fayette County Secondary Roads Department, West Union  
Linda Kinman, Des Moines Water Works, Des Moines  
Scott Newhard, Associated General Contractors of Iowa, Des Moines  
Cathy Nicholas, Black Hawk County, Waterloo  
Nancy Richardson, Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames  
Dan Sabin, Iowa Northern Railway Company, Cedar Rapids  
Brian Willham, Shive-Hattery, Inc., Iowa City  
Senator Mark Ziemann, Iowa General Assembly, Postville

### **Resource Group Members:**

Lori Beary, Iowa Finance Authority, Des Moines  
John Bender, Ament, Inc., Cedar Rapids  
Chuck Corell, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines  
Paul Hanley, University of Iowa, Iowa City  
Wayne Johnson, Qwest, Iowa City  
Alan Kemp, Iowa League of Cities, Des Moines  
Tom Parham, Federal Highway Administration, Ames  
Mikki Stier, Broadlawns Medical Center, Des Moines  
Dee Vanderhoef, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa City

### **Observers:**

Bill Freeland, House Democratic Caucus, Des Moines  
Jim Friedrich, Senate Republican Caucus, Des Moines  
Linda Hinton, Iowa State Association of Counties  
Rachele Hjelmaas, Legislative Services Agency  
Charlie Jones, FEMA ESF-14

Theresa Kehoe, Senate Democratic Staff, Des Moines  
Mary Beth Mellick, Legislative Services Agency, Des Moines  
Tom Oswald, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Bill Riley, Rebuild Iowa Office, Des Moines  
Kelly Ryan, House Republican Caucus, Des Moines  
Marcia Tannian, Legislative Services Agency, Des Moines

**Staff:**

Larry Jesse, Rebuild Iowa Office, Des Moines  
Hank Manning, Rebuild Iowa Office, Des Moines  
Ben Banowetz, SPPG, Des Moines  
Amelia Colwell, SPPG, Des Moines  
Jennifer Furler, SPPG, Des Moines

**Welcome and Opening Comments**

Banowetz welcomed the group. King thanked the group for coming and asked the group to introduce themselves. Wandro said that the challenge for the day will be to make recommendations for the long-term future, in terms of five and ten years down the road. Wandro encouraged the group to share broader ideas for recovery as well. Furler said that all nine Task Forces will provide input for a combined 120 report to the Commission and encouraged the group to consider topic areas that may be part of other Task Forces as they relate to infrastructure. Banowetz outlined the agenda for the day.

**Progress Reports – Presentation and Discussion**

**Rebuild Iowa Office Activities**

Manning gave an update on the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) activities. The RIO is moving into a longer-term office location and is hiring staff for policy and program coordination that will coordinate with stakeholders and experts to plan for recovery. Another facet of staffing will be the long-term community recovery. Jumpstart Housing and Small Business programs will provide initial funding before federal funding is distributed. Everyone requesting temporary housing has been placed.

**Status of Federal and State Assistance**

Tom Oswald from Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division(HSEMD) said that his agency works in cooperation with FEMA, which is here for the shorter time period. The Public Assistance (PA) program is authorized by the Stafford Act, and involves a partnership between applicants, the state, and FEMA. The state manages disbursement of funds to applicants, provides grant financial management services, and project management technical assistance to applicants. FEMA deploys staff to assist applicants to formulate projects and identify a scope of work of what needs to be done. For the 2008 Iowa disaster PA program, there is a 90% federal and a 10% state match, because of the excess obligated funds to the state. There are 85 counties that were disaster declared areas.

Individual assistance is a different program, and the estimated number of applicants is 1,100 for 7,500 project grants. There are 600 406 Mitigation projects. The PA program brings a facility to its pre-disaster condition, but the 404 program does allow for improvements. There has been \$296 million obligated as of October 3.

Emergency work involves emergency debris removal and emergency protective measures. Permanent work involves roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, and parks, recreation, and other. The total PA estimate is \$798.66 million, with utilities,

buildings, and equipment comprising the major cost areas. Permanent work can include a cost-effective hazard mitigation plan, repair versus replacement as determined by FEMA, and relocation.

Possible suggestions for hazard mitigation include increasing culvert size, lining drainage ditches, elevating roadways, designing bridges for greater flood magnitudes, building ring-levees, and elevating electrical and other building components.

Project worksheets are the primary forms used for documentation of the scope of work and cost estimation. The minimum amount for a project worksheet is \$1,000, and applicants are encouraged to participate in their development. Local responsibility includes preparing a list of work performed, locating each site on a map, providing photographs as requested, ensuring that the local expert formulates the project or is part of the formulation team; being able to provide a complete cost breakdown, having insurance coverage data available, determining if site will be repaired by either force account or contract, having copies of appropriate ordinances, and with any disagreement, being able to provide a statement of non-concurrence.

Emergency work and debris removal is done within six months, and permanent work is done within 18 months, although extensions can be granted for work. Oswald said that it is difficult to get things done quickly, especially with the magnitude of applicants. He said that damages cannot be seen in drainage districts because crops are still in the fields. He said that some communities are looking at priority areas, and work moves slowly because there is a lot of work to be done. A Task Force member said that Linn County has already hired a firm to do work, and the work has been slowed by FEMA. He said that a lot of FEMA contractors were taken away to work on Hurricanes Ike and Gustav. There was a question about whether funding for other disasters would take money away from Iowa, and Oswald answered that FEMA is obligated to do work that is included in the public assistance scope of work. 404 Mitigation is a competitive program.

A Task Force member said that data suggested weather will become more extreme with climate change and asked what kinds of guidance are being given to communities to build to additional capacity. Oswald said that he would encourage the group to discuss these issues and said that impervious areas will have more runoff, and increasing pipe sizes for culverts can address mitigating issues. Flooding issues are the number one cost to FEMA. Oswald said there have been three watershed Task Forces that have addressed these issues.

Tom Parham with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) said that listening to the numbers emphasized the magnitude of the disaster. He directed the group to a pie chart in the handout, with most of the detailed damage inspection reports (DDIRs) signed (151), with 13 remaining and pending. With the secondary system of county and city DDIRs, there are 56 pending and 93 signed. Detailed damage inspection reports go to Parham for approval, and he puts together a program of projects, which has been approved by the federal office, and is waiting for funding. There is a continuing resolution that includes supplemental funding for the \$600 million backlog, which leaves \$350 million. The FHWA is working with headquarters to prioritize needs and schedule obligations. He said that moving ahead with projects is feasible, since the funding is expected to be there and it is a reimbursement program. Many emergency repairs have been done already, and there is a move toward permanent repairs and doing improvements in some cases.

## **Progress on Immediate Recommendations**

Furler said that the charge of the day is to look at the Commission's subsequent recommendations and provide additional feedback about their details. Banowetz reviewed the recommendations from the report, including identifying and providing diverse revenue and funding options for local communities; providing tax incentives to assist with rebuilding efforts and to stimulate local economies; streamlining bureaucracy and eliminate barriers to provide a user friendly resource for Iowans to use when applying for assistance; and encouraging coordination and integration of local and state efforts between and among public and private entities with common interests.

Furler reviewed Commission recommendations, which included expediting the flow of funds from the federal level; creating funding options and flexibility to local governments; providing incentives for small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits; completing floodplain mapping for the entire state; providing resources and capacity to ensure public health is maintained; providing advice and support to those affected by the disasters through a case management framework; and ensuring immediate needs housing for all who need to be relocated before cold weather arrives.

Subsequent recommendations included:

- Provide incentives for small business and non-profits.
- Investment in local emergency management agencies for central coordination work.
- Support integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.
- Promote and support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.
- Move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management.
- Sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.
- Continue to provide advice and support to individuals seeking assistance in making their way through the challenges of rebuilding their lives in a "case management" framework while creating a lasting organizational capacity and process over time.
- Ensure availability of adequate, affordable housing and the ability of individuals and families to rent or purchase those homes.
- Complete floodplain mapping for the entire state as begun under the immediate action items.
- Identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist Iowa in rebuilding an even better Iowa.

## **Task Force Issues Review**

Banowetz asked the group if there are issues that were not included in the list that should be discussed. A Task Force member said that specific action steps have been lost in the approach to reporting. Banowetz said that the day's goal will be to look at the long term and looking at the detailed needs of the long-term planning. He said that there is not a specific sense of direction in terms of tax credits and investment credits. A Task Force member noted that in Cedar Rapids, there are 500 small businesses that are uncertain about their future, who probably employ 10,000 people in the community. If they wait until the Legislature convenes, the businesses may have already left by then. He asked about the likelihood of a special session to enable small businesses to better informed. Furler asked if the Jumpstart program addressed the small business issue, and a group member responded that the \$50,000 will help, but there are additional financial burdens.

There was discussion about the political will for a special session, and a Task Force member said that there could be a recommendation for a special session. Wandro said that a Commission member had made a passionate plea for a special session.

A Task Force member said that small businesses are not seeing equity in securing funding between the Small Business Administration (SBA) and bank financing. King said that he has felt similarly, and that it was cheaper to borrow money from a bank, as opposed to SBA. Wandro said that he saw problems with the SBA funds, with the percentage that is required for low and moderate income individuals. A Task Force member said that in his community, FEMA was there right away to assess damage for a sewer plant, and the next FEMA crew said that submerged and dried out motors were being penalized for their adaptation, and their funding has been reduced. A Resource Group member said that in looking longer term, he would like to see the Governor declare that certain recommendations automatically get implemented for the shorter term, and would like to see the Legislature put some parameters around the programs for the longer term. There was a question about whether incentives were only limited to small businesses, and a member said that it is difficult to address the long term, when some recommendations have not been addressed.

A Task Force member said that legislative committees will begin to tackle the issues put forward by the Task Forces. He said it will be important for communities to be organized to ensure that the political will is there to do certain things (i.e. revenue diversification). Furler said that Task Force reports will move forward to inform future work, and those are not forgotten. A Task Force member asked if the RIO will bring forward policy suggestions. Banowetz said that he thinks it will likely be included in the Governor's budget. Manning said that there are policy staff members whose role will be to suggest policy to the Legislature. Manning said that issues will likely arise as RIO staff work with funding agencies.

There was a question about whether mitigation would be included in the long-term planning discussion, and Banowetz confirmed that mitigation could be included. A Resource Group member said that land use planning, and the expertise to do that planning are gaps to consider. A Resource Group member suggested that rail lines and transportation corridors should be considered as they relate to funding for bridge elevations and land use. For the long term, zoning creates high density populations near rail line and in the short term, there is interest in the CRANDIC railroad. In a piece of the CRANDIC railroad in Coralville, the track is elevated somewhat and created a levee for the small businesses on the Coralville strip, and residents and business owners would like to see a higher levee. A Task Force member said that companies are losing employees and it has become harder to hire employees for railroads because of the uncertainty. There was concern expressed that immediate recommendations would not get addressed soon enough.

A Task Force member said that they cannot wait for communities to decide elevations, and there are not funds to replace bridges. Waterloo and Cedar Rapids are faced with uncertainty with what communities are going to look like in a few years. He said that the railroads are not included in community planning initiatives. There was discussion about the reality of rebuilding railroads. A Task Force member said that Cedar Rapids is trying to do planning in a sustainable way and have talked with businesses and railroads. The flood mitigation planning will take into account the needs to accommodate mitigation recommendations. He mentioned that sustainability will also need to be taken into account, in addition to hazard mitigation. He said that land use is limited to local communities, where people continue to build in the floodplain because of the flood insurance program. He said that there is a need to address the record year

flood level, instead of just the 100-year floodplain. There was a comment that there is a need for watershed area planning, since areas downstream are affected by areas upstream. A Task Force member asked what the mechanism for land use planning to get from big picture to details would be. Banowetz said that the recommendations are in the hands of the Commission and the Governor. Furler said that the next report should include intermediate progress and gaps to be a building effect.

A Task Force member said that a state Coordinating Council has sent a letter to the Governor so that RIAC can coordinate with the knowledge available. A Resource Group member said that Iowa State Extension and The University of Iowa both provide technical assistance to local areas regarding land use planning.

A Task Force member expressed the need to address issues that have not been addressed, and Furler said there is an opportunity to discuss immediate issues. Furler said that activities for the next year would define the timeline for immediate issues.

A Task Force member mentioned the issue of assignable tax credits and said that the current recommendations are too specific to commercial and industry buildings. The state of Iowa has sales tax credits for manufacturing equipment, but there are not sales tax credits for other industries. A Task Force member said that there is a need to expand the recommendation to all infrastructure needs. Sales tax makes or breaks a lot of projects, and there is a need for relief for all businesses, small and large. A Task Force member asked if a special session would increase the chance to increase revenue diversification, in order to provide incentives to small businesses. There was discussion about whether jurisdictions were in agreement on the issue of revenue diversification. A Task Force member said that there is a need to address the property tax rollback. Someone mentioned the work of the Property Tax Study Commission and cities may not be in agreement on all alternative revenue options, but the League of Cities has been trying to find areas of agreement. He said that the rollback would provide an opportunity to have further discussions.

A Task Force member mentioned that Linn County does not have revenue available through gaming. A Task Force member said that local agencies have to wait for permit procedures and suggested that rebuilding efforts should be moved to the head of the DNR line and make staff available to move through the flood pile. A Task Force member suggested giving more resources to highly affected areas, and a FEMA representative said that it is difficult to prioritize applicants or areas, since cities and towns are making serious considerations about whether or not to rebuild. A Resource Group member said that there is limited capacity for the DNR to write permits, and they would like to eventually see local programs issuing permits, so that time can be spent helping locals with their programs. There are resources needed to grow expertise, and there are no compliance measures or capacity in place. He said that cities can come to the DNR with proposed programs to issue permits, and he said that watershed regions may make the most sense.

A Resource Group member said that Regional Councils of Government have planners that can help local communities with planning. A Task Force member said that there is a need to recover and rebuild better, but that there is a limitation of expertise, time, and other barriers. A Resource Group member said he thought it was too late for this disaster, but there may be an opportunity to draw out plans for the longer term. A Task Force member said that telephone companies have rebuilt infrastructure, when there is uncertainty about whether communities will rebuild. A Task Force member said that land use planning is done by county and city officials, and there is a lot of complaining about whether it is being done fast enough. He said that there is a whole

new paradigm, and the realization is that there will be future disasters that will be of similar proportions, possibly sooner rather than later. He said that there is a need to inform local decision makers of the possibility of future disasters.

A Resource Group member said that he was shocked to hear that the Birdland area housing in Des Moines was bought out by the city in 1993, and then was redeveloped. The buyout from FEMA is at the request from the community, and redevelopment is not allowed when the buyouts are funded by FEMA. (Birdland buyouts were offered by the city of Des Moines separate from FEMA.) The FEMA representative suggested that the group look at success stories, such as Chelsea, with the use of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and flooding reduction that resulted from efforts in western Iowa. Furler asked if there is a mechanism for sharing those practices. A Task Force member asked what Davenport's plan was from the flood in the 1960s. A Task Force member said that there are local struggles in the decision making process when people have to consider development and potential future disasters. A Resource Group member clarified that helping once is different from helping multiple times. King said that during the Commission trip through the Waterloo area, a Waverly school superintendent said they have been flooded five or six times since 1993, and floodplain mapping needs to be a major priority, and there is a need for risk-takers to pay for flood insurance. King said that there was a very strong report written to request a special session, and is now out of the Commission's hands and encouraged the group to make immediate and long-term recommendations.

**Issues:**

1. Retaining employers and jobs
2. Disaster fund / program for quick state response
3. Land use and planning
  - a. Need for expertise; sustainability
  - b. Regional and watershed planning
4. Transportation infrastructure for the future
  - a. Rail; livable communities
5. Local permitting with state technical assistance roles
6. Water quality and quantity

A Task Force member emphasized the need to do regional land use planning, to enable cities to plan regionally. King said that mitigation efforts had been in place to control flooding and provide for water quality in his local counties, and there is a need to share those practices.

JD King, Fayette County Engineer, discussed land use and watershed planning. King explained that the NRCS PL566 program, or Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, has been helpful. NRCS has structures planned for Bear Creek, since there was significant decreased damage to structures located downstream from conservation practices. King asked the group to consider using funding for the NRCS program to support conservation measures and introduced Marty Adkins from NRCS. A Task Force member asked if this would address the issue of slowing water down and keeping it on the ground it falls on. Adkins said that allowable purposes of the program are for flood control, agricultural water supply, wildlife and recreation, and soil erosion control. Adkins said that projects are thoroughly planned and evaluated, including economic and environmental impacts, and some projects require Congressional oversight. Adkins said that the program is one way of getting projects installed and can be woven together with other efforts that are underway. Planning either has or can have significant impacts on water resources and how water flows off the land, and there is a mechanism in place for flood plain easement. A Task Force member asked if farm ponds were a part of that, and

Adkins said that those ponds are mostly independently formed and serve similar purposes. King said that there are conservation structures in place in Union County, and Adkins added that many lakes have been created out of this program. A Task Force member said that through the State Revolving Fund, there have been structures funded to keep water on the land on which it falls.

Banowetz asked the group to review the immediate recommendations and determine whether there could be consensus. A Task Force member suggested including watershed planning in immediate and long term recommendations. There was discussion about whether local communities discuss opportunities with communities upstream and downstream. The group agreed to the immediate recommendations by consensus.

#### **Immediate Recommendations:**

1. Assignable tax credit for all businesses for recovery
2. Sales tax lifted for recovery efforts for businesses
3. Revenue diversification
4. Special session
5. Prioritize projects for recovery
  - a. Permitting
6. Utilize COGs for planning and local technical assistance
7. Small and large business assistance

#### **Strategies to Accomplish Long-Term Recovery**

Banowetz reviewed the long-term recommendations brainstormed during the discussion and asked for additional suggestions. A Task Force member mentioned that water and waste water infrastructure is already 100 years old, and every dollar invested in that infrastructure resulted in \$8.97 added to the national economy. She mentioned water quality and quantity and said there is a need for statewide groundwater research. With the water flowing off the land faster, groundwater is not necessarily being restored, and reservoirs also improve water quality and reduce contaminants. A Task Force member discussed the issue of limiting new development within floodplains, and someone asked what protection level he was talking about. He answered that within the 100-year floodplain at the very least should be considered and there is a need to require floodplain mapping. A Task Force member said that infrastructure should be treated as flood protection, and included in that, the state should be buying as much property as possible in the floodplain. He added that there might be a need for a state policy to address new development in the floodplain.

There was discussion of how floodplain mapping interfaced with local development decisions. A Resource Group member said that there is a need to also update older maps. The Water Quality Task Force recommended a process to conduct an assessment of watersheds based on size to give an overall look at what needs to be done statewide (Rapid Watershed Assessment). King said that in his local county, they are cost-sharing with other counties to fund structures for mitigation and suggested using state and federal programs to leverage and coordinate funds. A Resource Group member asked if things can be done to establish building codes for floodplains, and a Task Force member said that houses in West Des Moines were required to be raised two feet after the 1993 flood. A Resource Group member said that developers in Iowa City developed an area by the river that was in the 100-year floodplain and followed the one foot above the floodplain rule. The development flooded, and residents want to be bought out. A Task Force member said that there need to be standards in place for consistency and uniformity. Wandro said that agriculture needs to be part of the planning, and there are incentives in place. A Task Force member said that the voluntary system has not worked for the



last 30 years. Another Task Force member said that NRCS is looking at increasing height for conservation structures, and expressed that the education is working for farmers.

There was discussion about whether or not to limit development within floodplains. A Task Force member said that conservation programs have not been fully funded, and there was clarification that planning needs to be done together as a state. There was a question about what would be the planning mechanism. There was discussion about cities impacting other areas and it was suggested that federal and local stakeholders could be included in planning. Manning suggested allowing cities to finance projects outside their jurisdictions that would provide benefits to their respective cities. A Task Force member mentioned that railroads need to be included in planning because they may be the last mechanism in place to prevent floods. A Task Force member said that streams start in Minnesota and suggested that there is a need to think bigger than the state.

A Task Force member suggested requiring an environmental review before large-scale developments are undertaken. A Task Force member said that environmental reviews are currently in place regarding road construction projects, and they cause a delay in projects. There was a suggestion that environmental reviews happen when it involves floodplains. A Task Force member said that nationwide, there are still people choosing to live in flood hazard areas and they are willing to assume the risk. He said that he sees the Cedar Rapids City Council moving toward using the record year flood level as a standard for rebuilding. He said that new developments have to limit water discharge to the pre-development levels. There is concern about those upstream and downstream communities from Cedar Rapids. One hundred year floodplain residents are being bought out, and 500-year floodplain residents are being asked to flood-proof to the record year standards.

There was discussion about putting information on property deeds regarding whether properties have flooded. Federally insured loans require disclosure of whether houses are located in floodplains, but commercial institutions may not be included. There was concern expressed that environmental reviews could limit economic development. Cedar Rapids has had discussions about who will maintain floodplain areas if it is devoted to floodplain easement.

A Resource Group member said that there was concern about maintaining infrastructure for critical services, such as hospitals. There was discussion about communities that may have older infrastructure and may not have already separated storm sewers from waste water systems, which is required by law. A Task Force member said that sanitary sewer damage may not be readily apparent. King suggested that the group also cover septic systems, and he mentioned that they are looking at tying resources together to bring more water to southwest Iowa. He mentioned cleaning up waterways with septic systems being part of that system. There was a suggestion that a State Revolving Loan Fund be established to fund replacement of waste water treatment infrastructure. A Resource Group member said that loans should involve a principal buy-down.

A Task Force group member suggested conducting a vulnerability study related to all infrastructure. King suggested increasing the gas tax. There was discussion of the need to renovate county buildings. A Task Force member suggested tolling interstates, and another Task Force Group member said that approval of tolls has to involve new interstates or new lanes for interstates. Additionally, by Iowa law, tolls are not allowed. A Task Force member said that there is less public support for tolling than there is for a gas tax. A Task Force member said he sees a need for road and bridge improvements that could be maintained through a gas tax and cited a recent increase in Minnesota's gas tax.

A Task Force member suggested requiring big trucks to pay more of the costs related to roads and bridges and utilizing rail to transport goods. Trucks pay upfront costs related to federal road use, licensing fees, and fuel taxes. A Task Force member said that multi-modal support through funding is important for the future in order to maximize the efficiency of movement. A Task Force member said that investment is needed in the railroad infrastructure in order to accommodate the growing need for rail transport. There was a suggestion for a smart growth policy related to land use. A Task Force member suggested building rail partnerships between communities and states. Other transportation modes are not funded through use taxes, and there is a need for a sustained, dedicated source of income for the modes. A Task Force member said that rules for obtaining funding for railroads are onerous, and there could be measures taken by the state to support projects, such as leveraging money. He said that his business runs the Hawkeye Express and transports 4400 people to Iowa City, taking strain off other roads.

A Task Force member said that with multi-modal systems, there has been an increased demand for bike lanes, trails, and buses. He mentioned the need for communities to plan for these modes. There was discussion about the need for smart planning for the future and moving things closer to people. A Task Force member said that there needs to be a balance between the benefits of development and the costs associated with it. Wandro mentioned the need for wind farm energy transmission to other areas of the state. Task Force Group members emphasized the need for funding to support infrastructure and transportation projects.

There was discussion of the state's role in water quality; small communities may be willing to participate but unable to participate because of costs. A Task Force member said the flood provides an opportunity to buffer rivers through easements or through buying infrastructure to maintain that land. He added that education about animal waste and waterways should also be emphasized.

There was discussion of environmental regulations. A Task Force member said that the flood event can serve to catapult the state forward and short term fixes will inform long term planning. He said that he wonders how people in Iowa have coordinated communication with the federal delegation and noted that funding is still being appropriated to recover from Hurricane Katrina. He suggested that the state fund outreach to the federal delegation, and King said that the Commission has discussed that issue. He said that they foresee the state receiving funds several years into the future. A Task Force member said that the Governor has a lobbying connection to the federal delegation, and larger state agencies have their own lobbying representatives. She said that the RIO could fit into the disaster recovery system with unique facets and lobbyists monitoring funding. Richardson said she would be willing to bring up the issue during an upcoming meeting with the Governor.

There was mention of utilization of James Lee Witt and Associates for lobbying and funding purposes. A Task Force member said that he foresaw support for funding through the Congressional delegation. There was a suggestion of loaning staff to the federal delegation to provide information.

There was discussion of requiring government entities to buy flood insurance when located in the floodplain. A Task Force member said that it is often advantageous to entities to self insure and there is a need to do a financial analysis of the costs associated with flood insurance versus self insurance.

## **Long-Term Recommendations:**

### **Land Use and Planning:**

1. Require use of updated floodplain maps
2. State policies to limit development in floodplain
  - a. Study self insurance versus floodplain insurance, create cost benefit analysis
3. Conduct rapid watershed assessments.
4. Utilize existing federal, state, and local programs for planning.
5. Require statewide watershed planning
  - a. Include public and private entities
  - b. Cross border coordination with other states
6. Environmental review for building in floodplain

### **Retaining Employers and Jobs:**

1. Funding gaps
2. Water and Water Quality:
3. Improve Water Quality
  - a. Funding
  - b. State role
    - i. Buffers
    - ii. State conservation easements
4. Water treatment
  - a. Update water treatment plants
5. Septic systems
6. Investment in waste water treatment
  - a. Update waste water treatment plants
  - b. Loan program
  - c. Principal buy down

### **Infrastructure:**

1. Vulnerability study of infrastructure
2. Possible revenue source: gas tax increase

### **Transportation**

1. Multi-modal system
  - a. Work with land use
  - b. Urban design (i.e. bike trails and lanes and bus)
    - i. Consider long term costs and include multiple modes of transportation
  - c. Rail partnerships (freight and passenger)
    - i. Small investment by state to leverage additional funds
2. Transportation Plan
3. Energy grid capacity

Furler reminded the group that there will be a combined Task Force report instead of individual Task Force reports and adjourned the meeting.